Promotion of Housing Activities in the Country

914. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering further fiscal concessions and legal reforms to promote housing activity in the country;

(b) if so, whether States have been asked to sent reports in this regard; and

(c) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Sir, Fiscal concessions are an ongoing process and the Government consider proposals received from various organizations representing the urban sector and recommend the same to Ministry of Finance at the time of formulation of budget.

(b) Yes, Sir. States have been also asked to take action to encourage housing through fiscal and legal reforms.

(c) The broad features involve housing friendly rent control and building laws, and favourable stamp duty and other duties.

Privatisation of Water Supply in Delhi

915. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to privatise water supply in Delhi and other metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation has no proposal to privatize water supply in Delhi and other metropolitan cities. Since this is a State subject, it is for the State Governments and metropolitan authorities to decide on this issue. The Ministry held a national seminar on Private Sector Participation in Water Supply and Sanitation in New Delhi on 7-8 Feb., 2000 to sensitise the participants from the State Governments on the various issues involved and to provide exposure to international experience in this field.

As reported, the Delhi Jal Board, Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Calcutta Municipal Corporation and Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) have no proposals to privatize water supply. However, MCGM is contemplating to award a management contract for management and distribution of water supply for one of its wards.

The Government of Karnataka has a proposal to privatize water supply in Bangalore city since 1997. Bids received for the production and conveyance of 500 mld (million litres per day) of treated water to the city under the Cauvery Water Supply Scheme Stage-IV, Phase-II on BOOT. (Build-Operate-Own-Transfer) basis has been evaluated and negotiations held with the preferred bidder. Final decision to enter into an agreement is yet to take place. Government of Karnataka/Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board has also proposed to take up delegated management contract in two pilot areas of the city for operation and maintenance of water supply and sewerage system, as well as construction of 50 mld recycling plant through private sector participation.

Land for Community Centre in Vasant Vihar

916. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether land has been allotted for community centre adjoining the shopping complex in CGH Complex, Vasant Vihar;

(b) if so, whether construction work has been started on this land;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the said community centre is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Department of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension are still to take up the construction.